

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 20, 2006. Claims 1-45 are pending, with Claims 1, 17, 32, and 45 in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 17, 19, 20, 32, 34, 36, and 45 have been amended. In particular, the independent claims have been amended to specify that the aligning of cropped PDF pages facilitates avoiding an appearance of page jumping. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at least at page 2, lines 6-9. All other changes to the claims are submitted to be formal in nature and that the scope of the claims have not been narrowed by these other changes. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 10-13, 17, 19-21, 26-29, 32, 33-36, and 41-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0167271 (Arnold et al.) in view of the CTAN article and U.S. Patent No. 5,832,110 (Hull). Claims 2, 18, and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Arnold Application, the CTAN article, and the Hull patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,945 (Lahey et al.). Claims 6, 7, 14, 22, 23, 37, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Arnold et al. Application, the CTAN article, and the Hull Patent, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0067502 (Hansen). Claims 8, 9, 24, 25, 39, and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Arnold et al. Application, the CTAN article, the Hull Patent, and the Hansen Publication, in further view of the Altamura et al. article. Claims 15, 16, 30, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Arnold et al. Application, the CTAN article, and the Hull Patent, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,616,359 (Nakagiri et al.) and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0103238 (MacLean et al.). Claim 45 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Arnold et al. Application, the CTAN article, the Larson Application, and the Lahey et al. Patent. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are patentable over the cited references, taken separately or in any proper combination, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a method for generating a portable document format (PDF) representation of a book. The method includes the step of

generating PDF pages corresponding to pages of the book wherein the PDF pages comprise content areas of text or graphics or both and non-content areas surrounding the content areas. The method also includes the steps of removing from the PDF pages the non-content areas to generate cropped PDF pages of the content areas on the PDF pages; selecting a feature of the cropped PDF pages common to all the cropped PDF pages; and aligning, in the PDF representation of the book, the selected feature of all cropped PDF pages to facilitate avoiding an appearance of page jumping in the PDF representation of the book.

A notable feature of Claim 1 is the aligning, in the PDF representation of the book, the selected feature of all cropped PDF pages to facilitate avoiding an appearance of page jumping in the PDF representation of the book. As mentioned in the specification at page 2, lines 4 – 9,

“To scan a book and therefore convert it to an electronic version that can be printed on a production printer, the book is cut at the spine and then scanned page by page. This creates originals that no longer contain perfectly aligned page images. When the raw scan data is printed, the pages appear to ‘jump’ around when one browses through the book.. Because of that, there is a need to either automatically or manually align the pages prior to printing.”

The invention recited in Claim 1 addresses this problem by aligning the selected feature of all cropped PDF pages to facilitate avoiding an appearance of page jumping.

In contrast, the Hull Patent, which has been cited by the Office Action as the only reference to teach aligning image fragments, is understood to pertain to stitching together several image fragments, as is done when creating a large, continuous map. See column 3, lines 40-54. In particular, the Hull Patent states

“Image registration is the process of aligning two image fragments where the image fragments overlap, i.e., where the image fragments have features in common. For example, a map book which has multiple pages (image fragments) to fully map a city might have each map page overlap adjacent map pages. If a large, continuous map of the city is desired, it could be constructed from the map pages by aligning adjacent map pages using the common, overlapping portions of the adjacent map pages in an image registration process.”

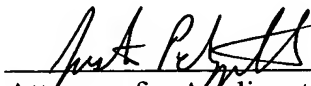
In contrast to stitching together overlapping image fragments, the invention of Claim 1 requires avoiding the appearance of page jumping when generating a portable document format (PDF) representation of a book. Applicants have not found anything in the Hull patent that is believed to teach or suggest the alignment of cropped PDF pages to facilitate avoiding an appearance of page jumping, as recited by Claim 1. In addition, none of the other cited references are believed to teach or suggest at least this feature. Accordingly, Claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be patentable over the cited references, taken separately or in any proper combination for at least this reason.

Independent Claim 17, 32, and 45 include the same or a similar feature to that described above in connection with Claim 1. Therefore, these claims are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons. The other rejected claims in this application depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, also are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested. For example, dependent Claims 7, 23, and 38 require that alignment be performed on odd and even PDF page subsets to facilitate avoiding the appearance of page jumping. Although the claims are not limited to the embodiments described in the specification, page 7, lines 4-22 of the specification describe that such a claimed arrangement is useful for duplex printing, where even pages are aligned separately from odd pages. The Office Action at page 11, first full paragraph, cites the Hansen Application as allegedly teaching this feature. In particular, the Office Action points to paragraph [0038] of the Hansen Application to teach that “any particular page...may belong to more than one group of pages”. The Office Action then reasons that “any page includes pages that are odd or even.” However, as described in Applicants’ specification, the use of odd pages specifically, and even pages specifically, addresses a particular problem associated with duplex printing. Because none of the cited references describe grouping subsets of pages particularly by odd and even pages, or even pertain to problems associated with page jumping for duplex printing, Applicants respectfully submit that the mere generic statement that groupings can consist of any particular arrangement of

pages does not provide a motivation to specifically combine the references to arrive at the claimed invention recited in Claim 7, 23, and 38.

In view of the forgoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.